

Dear Mark,

3/7/83

Your note with the Ramsay panel report (for which thanks) leaves me a bit confused because it is dated 2/7 and I don't think I've had it for a month.

You ask if I can help you with finding cheap filing cabinets and finding "a place to store 200,000 documents." The answer to both is "yes."

You can store them here, with the other similar records, I've a couple of new and empty cabinets you can use until you begin to get your own, and I'm reasonably certain that I can get as good a buy as today is possible -if I can arrange to get all you'll want at one time, reducing dealer work and costs to a minimum. If he can order, say 10 more with his next order, he may be able to get a better price and pass some of that on, and he won't have the extra costs of any special orders.

There is a reasonably large area I'd cleared for another purpose in the basement. Perhaps you remember the large wrapping table I had on the wall toward the swimming pool? I've given it away and have that much wall space, which can be extended by the width of at least two fine cabinets by my moving what is there, no big deal.

If you want to leave them here, and even if you don't, I think you should ask the FBI for an estimate of the number of pages so you can make an estimate of the amount of space. Then you can add a little, as for file folders, and have a better idea of what file cabinets you'll require.

What I've done is place each section in a simple file folder. This makes it easier and safer to use the records, keeps them in better shape, and save time in using enormously. You just can't work with great unbroken masses of paper. (I can save you money on file folders and can lend you some until you buy your own. One advantage of this is that you can await a good price, like at Quill's, of whom I'm sure Jim has spoken to you.

I don't know what kind of desk area you have at your apt., but if you have none, I can sell or lend you some truly superior 2-drawer cabinets and give you a flash doot to put on top fot working area. Works fine. I've done it. Even if you have a desk, if you've space for this it can help no end because you can have the equivalent of an entire large file cabinet right at hand for work/review/note-making, etc.

If you want to leave them here, I strongly urge that you go over them carefully to begin with so you won't be having to make trips to go over them again. And, if you've no better home, they can also go to Wisconsin, which I believe will be, without question, far and away the best and least nutty archive. I urge Wisc. and Wrong on you as strongly as possible.

If you want to leave them here, I suggest identifications similar to those I use on the cabinets. Each has a letter and number and each drawer is numbered. I have a card file locating each file number (I hope) and have almost completed a subject card file, both 3x5s. So, I'd ask you to make such cards that can be worked in with the others. I suggest that you use a combination of letters and numbers, MA plus other letters if necessary, but because it is all JFK, perhaps no other letters would be needed. This would immediately separate and identify your files and the cabinets that hold them.

Perhaps there are other considerations. We can talk. Sorry I've not been able to answer sooner but I've been ill, bronchitis, pneumonia and pleurisy complicated end of last week with ecchymosis, a fancy word for internal hemorrhaging from coughing. The extravasation of that blood throughout the chest will be ugly and painful where it is congested for 4-6 weeks more. Best,